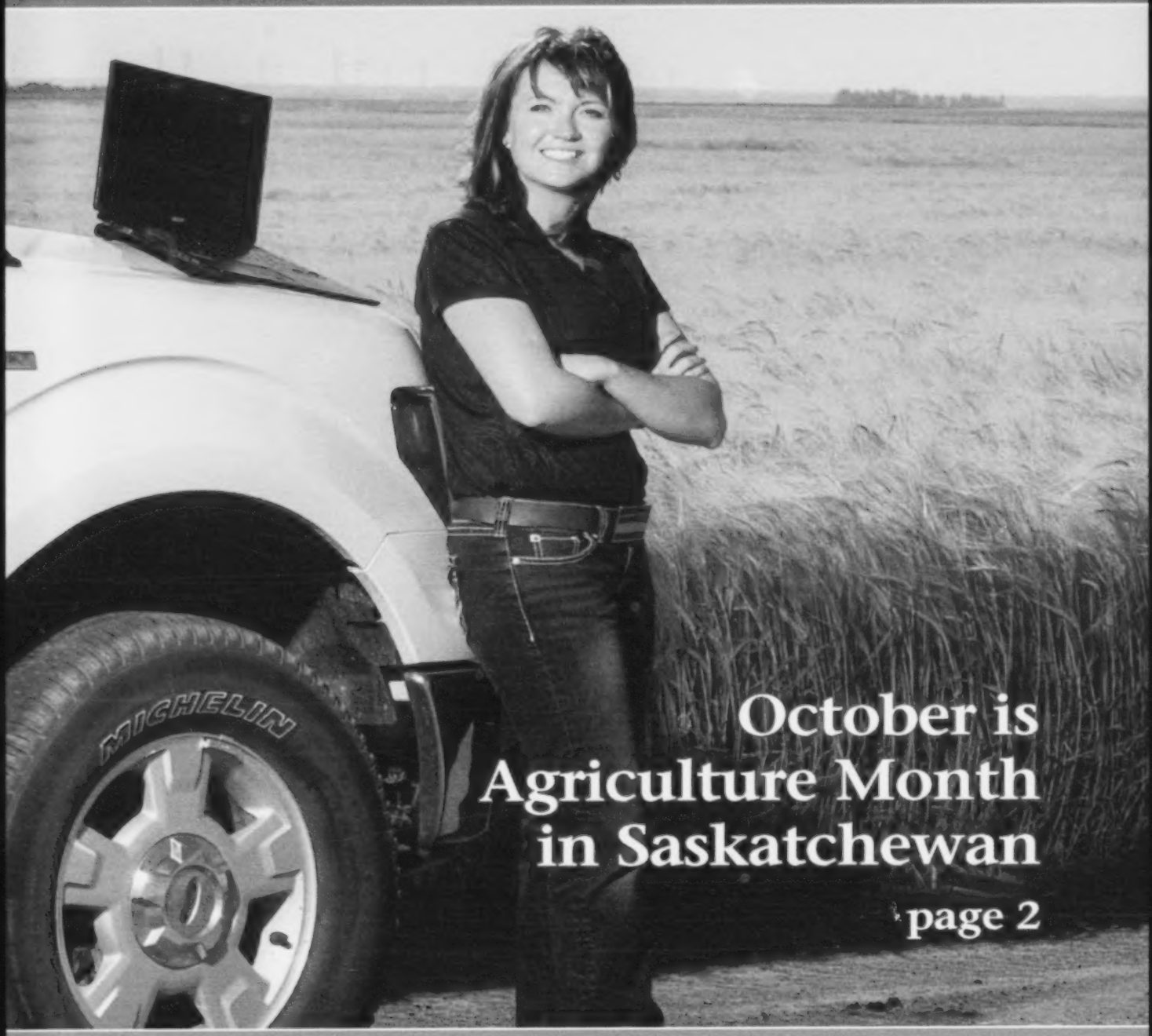
ISSUE 06

AGRIVIEW

OCTOBER 2013 VOLUME 9



October is Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan

page 2

REBOOT YOUR FLAX SEED IN 2014 PAGE 5

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS PAGE 8

FALL 2013 ADOPT PROJECTS PAGE 16

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

Minister's Message

October is Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan. This is a month to celebrate the industry, our farmers and ranchers and raise awareness about this thriving sector of our economy and the future opportunities it offers.

It's a fact; agriculture is big business in Saskatchewan. With 40 per cent of Canada's farmland, a third of the country's biotechnology industry, half of the country's farm income and as the top exporter of agri-food products in Canada, a young Saskatchewanian would be hard-pressed to find a more diverse and rewarding career path in this province.

Young people today have access to countless career options. As this generation becomes further removed from the farm, they may not know about the diversity of potential careers they could enjoy in Saskatchewan's modern, technologically-advanced agriculture industry. Recent graduates and entrepreneurs in agriculture are in high demand. In order for the industry to remain strong and for Saskatchewan to keep growing, we need young people to appreciate its potential.

As those employed in the agriculture industry, we have a responsibility to spread the word. Young people need to hear from farmers, ranchers, agriculture journalists, researchers, value-added processors, meat inspectors, engineers, farm finance specialists and irrigation technicians about their experience in the industry and the diverse opportunities that exists for tomorrow.

We are all spokespersons for our industry and we must show young people why they should consider agriculture. Apart from the many benefits and exciting challenges, a career in agriculture contributes to the future prosperity of Saskatchewan. It's not just farming and ranching anymore. Saskatchewan agriculture is a vital and vibrant industry that fuels our economy and feeds the world.

I hope you'll join me as a spokesperson, so we can educate and inform future industry leaders. We must be clear that agriculture is a source of solutions to a growing world; that our producers are good stewards of the land and animals; that we produce safe, high-quality products; and that agriculture is the foundation of opportunity in Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,

Lyle Stewart

STORY SNAPSHOTS

Reboot your flax

Seed testing

Environmental Stewardship

Fall ADOPT projects

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CROPS 4

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS 8

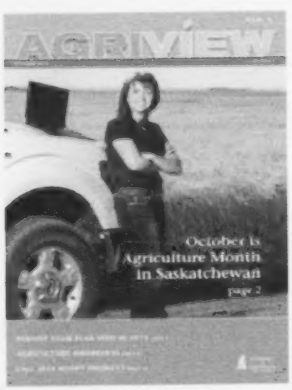
LIVESTOCK 10

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 13

RESEARCH 14

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 15

EVENTS CALENDAR 16



Cover: Katie MacMillan of Farmers Edge in Swift Current, SK is one of the young people featured in the Ministry's Think Ag career catalogue. Turn to 8 for more details.

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

AGRIVIEW is published by the Communications Branch of Saskatchewan Agriculture for Saskatchewan farmers, ranchers and farm and food organizations. **For more information, call 306-787-5160 or email agriview@gov.sk.ca. To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.**

2013 Crop Diagnostic School a sell-out

by Sherrilyn Phelps, M.Sc, PAg, CCA
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford
Regional Services Branch

Shannon Chant, M.Sc, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Swift Current
Regional Services Branch

and

Erin Campbell, M.Sc, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Watrous
Regional Services Branch

The first Crop Diagnostic School organized by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, SaskCanola, SaskPulse and Western Grains Research Foundation sold out on all four dates. The one-day field event was held at Swift Current on July 23 and 24 and at Indian Head on July 30 and 31. With more than 300 people attending the events, there was lots of opportunity for learning and networking.

The events were designed to provide in-depth training for agronomists, producers or anyone involved in giving advice about crops. The day included a stop at eight different stations that focused on different areas of crop production. Participants were organized into small groups to allow discussion and to provide a hands-on learning experience in the field.

At the insect station, participants learned how to use a sweep net and to identify some common pests found in the field. At the nodulation station, they pulled a pulse plant from the soil and tried to assess its roots and nodules. The weed station encouraged participants to test their weed identification skills, while the disease station allowed them to learn more about plant disease identification using real plants. A field diagnostic exercise offered participants the chance to ask questions, dig up damaged plants and see if they could figure out what happened.

At other stations, attendees and specialists discussed seed-placed fertilizer, herbicide injury symptoms on crops and/or weeds, and examined the establishment of crops with poor seed quality and/or improper seeding depth.

Attendees left the day with knowledge and some great resource material and scouting tools as well.

Another school is planned for the summer of 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact a Regional Crops Specialist at a Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Regional Office.

THE SASKATCHEWAN FARM SECURITY ACT – FARM OWNERSHIP PROVISIONS

by Mark Folk
General Manager
Farm Land Security Board

Saskatchewan first introduced legislation in 1974 to restrict the amount of farmland owned by non-Saskatchewan residents. This legislation reflected the government's belief that the province's agricultural resources should be owned by the people of Saskatchewan. In 2003, the amendments of *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act* were proclaimed with the following provisions for owning farmland in Saskatchewan:

- No restriction on Canadians (permanent residents/citizens) owning farmland;
- No restriction on 100 per cent Canadian-owned corporations that do not have shares traded on an exchange;
- Restrict non-Canadians and non-Canadian-owned corporations to 10 acres.

Both Alberta and Manitoba have similar restrictions for ownership of farmland in their provinces.

The Farm Land Security Board has the ability to provide an exemption to an individual/corporation that wishes to own more farmland than the legislation allows. To grant an exemption, the board reviews the application and decides if it is in the best interest of the Province of Saskatchewan to allow a non-Canadian to own the farmland. The board has granted exemptions in the past for the following types of land use for farmland:

- Mining;
- Sand and gravel;
- Commercial land use;
- Recreational use; and
- Persons immigrating to Canada with a time frame to allow the immigration process to be completed.

The board ensures that the Act is followed and monitors all land transactions. The board uses information from Information Services Corporation to confirm land owners are complying with the Act. In some cases, the board may request a declaration confirming that owners are either Canadian citizens or permanent residents, that corporations are 100 per cent Canadian-owned. The board may also seek information on the source of funds for the purchase. This is to help determine if other non-Canadians have an interest in the land being purchased.

The board investigates all concerns that come to its attention and, in cases where land is being held in contravention of the Act, the board, through provisions in the Act, can order the land to be divested. This will force the owner, if unable to become compliant with the Act, to sell the land. The Act also contains provisions to fine individuals up to $10,000 and corporations up to $100,000 for any contravention of the farm ownership provisions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Mark Folk at 306-787-5153, or mfolk@farmland.gov.sk.ca.

Reboot your flax seed in 2014

by Venkata Vakulabharanam, M.Sc, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Oilseed Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Since 2009, the flax industry has been working hard to keep the European Union (EU) market open to Canadian flax. Over the last three years, the amount of Triffid contamination in Canadian flax seed stocks and commercial production has decreased dramatically. Significant and consistent decrease was seen in our pedigreed flax seed, which showed zero positive samples for Triffid in testing conducted for three years in a row. Farm grain and farm-saved seed are consistently showing about three per cent Triffid contamination. As the current tolerance limit to access the EU market is still effectively zero, planting "Triffid-free" seed is still the key.

The flax breeders at the Crop Development Centre in Saskatoon reconstituted their two popular flax varieties—CDC Bethune and CDC Sorrel—and two new varieties, CDC Sanctuary and CDC Glas. Reconstitution of a variety is a very laborious process where the breeder tests each and every plant in the greenhouse for Triffid contamination and only seed from plants that have tested negative is pooled to make breeder's seed for that variety. These reconstituted breeder seed lots were supplied to SeCan. This pedigreed seed was grown under a very stringent agreement in 2012 and 2013.

During the summer of 2013, SeCan tried to rename two old CDC flax varieties but were not successful due to Plant Breeder Rights limitations. However, seed growers with reconstituted seed are provided with a Reconstituted Flax Seed Certificate for authenticity.

Recommendation to growers:

- Flax growers should plant only certified seed of either re-constituted varieties or others as they choose during 2014.
- Growers are asked to verify the "Reconstituted Flax Seed Certificate" if purchasing certified seed of CDC Bethune, CDC Sorrel, CDC Sanctuary and CDC Glas.

- New cultivars CDC Sanctuary (105 per cent in brown soil zone) and CDC Glas (103 per cent in Western Canada) gave better yields than CDC Bethune in co-operative trials.

This is a good opportunity for producers to try new varieties on the farm while eliminating Triffid contamination.

The flax industry is providing a great opportunity to all flax growers to start with clean seed again—a well-thought-out response to restore Canada's flax markets. Be a part of the industry awareness campaign: "Reboot Canada's Flax Industry".

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

FALL BANDING NITROGEN FERTILIZER CAN BEGIN ONCE THE SOIL COOLS

by Ken Panchuk, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Soils
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Fall banding of anhydrous ammonia and urea sources of nitrogen can begin once the soil temperature has cooled to below 10 C. This generally coincides with the second week of October for most of the grain belt, so soil testing to determine the nitrogen requirements for each field can take place at the end of September or during the first few days of October. Soil testing labs will process samples quickly during the fall season because they know the fall banding window can be short.

Cool soil temperatures are needed to keep the nitrogen in the ammonium form. This protects it from denitrification during the spring when melting snow and rain can lead to high nitrogen losses. In the soil, urea and anhydrous ammonia convert quickly to ammonium that has a positive charge. These positively charged molecules attach themselves securely to the negatively charged soil and soil organic matter particles, significantly minimizing losses.

Nitrogen fertilizer should be banded deep enough to allow the soil to flow around the opener and close the furrow completely. This is most critical when anhydrous ammonia is being injected in a gaseous form. Banding nitrogen into the soil in narrow bands also assists in minimizing tie-up of nitrogen during the next growing season when the soil microbes use the applied nitrogen in the process of decomposing crop residues. Immobilized or tied-up nitrogen usually becomes available to the crop later in that growing season or during the next one.

Fall banding of anhydrous ammonia and urea forms of nitrogen fit the industry-led 4R nutrient stewardship program; the *right* source, applied at the *right* rate, at the *right* time and in the *right* place. Fall banding also helps reduce the spring rush, allowing producers to get the seed in the ground earlier, which generally results in higher yields.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Regional Crops Specialist at your nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

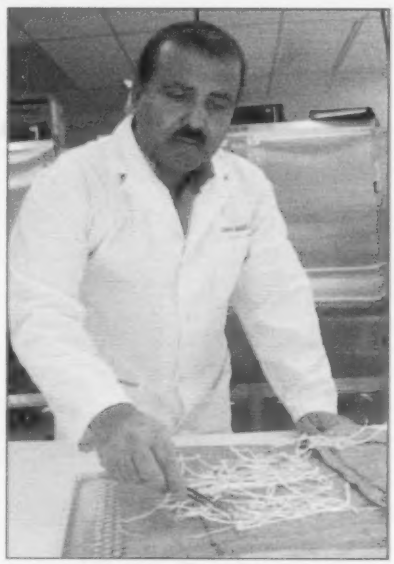
Seed testing – germination and vigour

by John Ippolito, PAg
Regional Crop Specialist, Kindersley
Regional Services Branch

Seed testing has become common practice among producers to ensure they get the maximum return from their seed investment. There are two types of seed test: germination and vigour.

Germination testing provides information on the seed's ability to develop into a healthy seedling under almost ideal conditions. This test is completed at 20 C under ample moisture conditions for seven days. The conditions under which a germination test is completed are standardized across the industry and meet requirements under the *Seeds Act*.

The seed vigour test is a measure of the seed's ability to emerge and develop under stressful conditions. This test can be useful if seeding conditions are known to be stressful: cold soils, wet soils, salinity, intended deep planting, etc. It is important to note that seed vigour tests are not standardized across the industry.



Seed germination testing at Lendon Seeds

As an example, some labs may conduct these tests at 7 C under low light and moisture conditions for an extended period, but different labs may use different protocols. If comparing seed lots based on vigour results, ensure that tests were either done at the same lab or ask for information on the protocols to ensure the tests were conducted in a similar fashion.

There may be the question in producers' minds which is more important – germination or vigour, when selecting seed lots. In reality, producers should look at the combination of the two results. A seedlot with both high germination and vigour indicates seed that will provide the desired plant population under most conditions. If there is a significant difference between the vigour and germination results, it is important to determine why the vigour was reduced (e.g. mechanical damage, herbicide damage, green seeds, etc.).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Refer to *Guidelines for Seed-Borne Diseases of Cereal Crops* or the equivalent publication for pulse crops at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

NUTRIENT ASSESSMENT: ANOTHER TECHNIQUE FOR PREDICTING CROP PERFORMANCE

by Gary Kruger, PAg
Irrigation Agrologist
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Several tools are effective for predicting crop performance. The most common technique is analysis of a soil sample collected from the field prior to seeding. The benefit of soil testing is the ability to predict nutrient supply from a soil for the upcoming crop. This approach can identify potential limiting growth factors prior to the growing season – before they impact yield potential.

Nutrient assessment is another technique for predicting crop performance. Testing the nutrient content of plant tissue measures nutrient uptake. The most desirable time for collecting a plant tissue sample is just prior to the crop's reproductive stage. This timing indicates how the crop has acquired nutrients during the growing season. The measured levels are compared to standards developed from tests conducted in varied locations over a number of years.

Interpretation of the soil test level can be challenging because the measurement varies with a number of factors such as the method of soil analysis, soil texture, moisture content of soil, previous crop, etc. Each method has its own unique criteria for categorizing the test level. Plant tissue testing is affected by the plant part chosen for sampling, the growth stage of the crop at the time of sampling, and growing season conditions. The level of nutrients in the plant tissue also decline as the crop matures.

Analysis of the nutrient content in the grain harvested from the field is another approach for evaluating the adequacy of nutrient supply to a crop in the field. Many farmers intuitively do this by checking the protein content of hard spring wheat they harvest. Protein levels higher than 13.5 per cent indicate luxury consumption of nitrogen, whereas less than 13 per cent indicates suboptimal nitrogen supply and potentially lost yield. Other nutrients can be evaluated by this technique as well. Work done in Australia has shown copper levels in wheat greater than 2.5 ppm indicated soil copper was adequate for wheat production.

An advantage of grain testing is the collection of the sample requires little effort. The sample is the same product normally harvested and marketed by the farmer, and growers routinely collect a grain sample from each field as they conduct harvest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Gary Kruger at the Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office in Outlook at 306-867-5524.

The seeds of knowledge – take time to attend the Green Trades Conference

by Glen Sweetman, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Greenhouse and Nursery Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

and

Connie Achtymichuk, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Vegetables
Crops and Irrigation Branch

If you are a new greenhouse grower, have just gotten into market gardening or started a large-scale vegetable operation, you will want to attend the Green Trades Conference at the Saskatoon Inn on November 8 and 9.

An increased demand for local produce combined with a growing population and strong economy have contributed to growth in the province's horticultural industry. Potential producers are looking at opportunities in the horticultural industry, creating a demand for basic information on production and marketing. The Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers' Association (SGGA) and the Saskatchewan Vegetable Growers' Association (SVGA) have teamed up again this year to meet this demand by bringing in a number of speakers. These experts will cover topics such as production, food safety, quality control and marketing. A full trade show will give participants further opportunities to learn and network with some of the country's top horticultural suppliers.

This year, the SGGA has organized a pre-conference bus tour. This tour, on November 7, will visit greenhouse operations in and around Saskatoon. Participants will have the opportunity to see new technologies, get an introduction to some best management practices and interact with experienced producers from all over Saskatchewan.

The Green Trades Conference provides an opportunity for delegates to network and also to meet the many dedicated people who work on the industry's behalf representing the province's greenhouse and vegetable industry, locally, provincially and nationally. You are encouraged to attend the annual general meetings of the SGGA and SVGA to learn about all the great projects that the organizations are working on, contribute to the discussion and hear about the issues and challenges that other producers face.

Consider it an investment in time to learn more about your business, production and marketing. It might just be your most important input cost.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to register for the conference:

- Visit www.saskgreenhouses.com; or
- Call 1-306-794-2051.

FORAGE SEED RESEARCH UNDERWAY AT NORTHEAST AGRICULTURE RESEARCH FOUNDATION SITE

by Kevin France, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Forage Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

and

Allan Foster, PAg
Forage Specialist, Tisdale
Regional Services Branch

Forage seed production is realizing the benefits of producer-supported checkoff, collected through the work of the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC). All producers of forage seed in the province are automatically members of the SFSDC when they sell seed.

The goal of the SFSDC is to develop the forage seed industry by supporting research, promoting the industry and providing production and marketing information. This is done through the grower-funded checkoff. Saskatchewan Agriculture supports the commission by participating on the board of directors and by funding demonstrations and research under the Ministry's Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technology (ADOPT), Agriculture-Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM) and Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) programs. SFSDC also receives support from industry members such as forage seed buyers and crop protection companies.

Since its start in 2005, the commission has actively supported new and innovative research to assist Saskatchewan's forage seed growers. Recently completed research has examined fertilizing forage grasses for seed production; the use of pod sealants to prevent seed shatter in bird's-foot trefoil; control of bromegrass seed midge and the use of fungicides in grass seed production.

Research activities in 2013 include the establishment of 10 forage seed crop plots at the Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF) site located at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Farm at Melfort. The crops planted this spring were perennial ryegrass, timothy, hybrid brome, tall fescue, slender wheatgrass, alsike clover, red clover, sweet clover, bird's-foot trefoil and cicer milkvetch. The research will examine seedling tolerance of these crops to a number of herbicides that have potential for future minor use registration. Plots have been seeded large enough to allow similar crop tolerance studies on established stands in 2014.

A second research trial is examining the role copper has in forage seed production. Research plots have been established in northeastern Saskatchewan where researchers will apply foliar copper at the flag-leaf stage and compare it against untreated controls. Copper is an important micronutrient for plants. It promotes seed production, plays an essential role in chlorophyll formation and is critical to proper enzyme activity. Copper deficiency is uncommon in Saskatchewan, but it may occur in some areas within the Dark Grey and Black Soil Zones.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Kevin France at 306-787-7712 or kevin.france@gov.sk.ca or Al Foster at 306-878-8890 or allan.foster@gov.sk.ca; or
- Contact Ray McVicar, Executive Director, SFSDC, at 306-789-1958 or visit the commission's website at http://skforageseeddc.com.

Ag Awareness: a year in review

by Shelley Jones
Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister
Manager, Agriculture Awareness
Regional Services Branch

A year ago, Saskatchewan Agriculture joined forces with Agriculture More Than Ever (AMTE), an industry cause powered by Farm Credit Canada (FCC) aimed at improving perceptions through positive dialogues about Canadian agriculture. Saskatchewan Agriculture was the first provincial ministry to sign on and support the cause, which now has more than 200 partners, from across Canada and the agriculture and agri-food industry.

Saskatchewan Agriculture wanted to focus its awareness communications efforts on four key themes: Solutions for a Growing World; Stewardship Towards Tomorrow; Safe Food, Responsibly Produced; and Future Forward. These key messages guide ag awareness efforts to provide consistent and accurate messaging.

The Ministry hosted an Agriculture Awareness Summit in February 2013 to identify key actions required by the Ministry and industry to advance ag awareness. From the summit came the recommendation of a co-ordinated industry effort in the development of an ag awareness strategy that would guide future Ministry and industry actions. A youth and educational component to the strategy that promoted the many career and entrepreneurial opportunities in the agriculture industry was also deemed important. It is currently being developed.

In order to set a benchmark for future agriculture awareness activities, the Ministry surveyed public opinion on some key areas of agriculture. The results indicate that, while the public's perception of agriculture is very positive, there is still work to do in some key areas. For example, residents of Saskatchewan are divided on genetically-modified organisms in food as necessary to feed the world. This is especially true of women and lower-income families.

The Ministry has established an Agriculture Awareness Unit responsible for coordinating awareness efforts and developing youth initiatives. The unit is also responsible for the Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program (AAIP) under Growing Forward 2, which provides funding for industry projects committed to an improved perception of agriculture.

The Ministry will continue to make ag awareness a priority. Agriculture is of one of the most promising sectors of the world economy. It is vital and vibrant, modern and market driven. With the support of Saskatchewan people and continued investment, it will keep growing and contributing to our economy and our Saskatchewan quality of life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Ag-Awareness.

Attendees at the 2013 Agriculture Awareness Summit held in February

AG AWARENESS YOUTH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY

by Brady Kapovic
Junior Communications Consultant, Agriculture Awareness
Regional Services Branch

There is high demand for well-trained graduates and entrepreneurs across a variety of fields within the agriculture and agri-food industry. In order to garner the human resources industry needs going forward, we must be committed to improving the perception of agriculture and to the promotion of the benefits and diversity of post-secondary, career and entrepreneurial opportunities the sector offers.

At the Agriculture Awareness Summit in February, a need for a co-ordinated industry effort regarding youth and educational resources was identified as a priority. To support this, the Ministry has drafted a youth and education strategy.

The strategy aims to communicate our messages through channels customary to youth. Using mediums such as a website, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and digital promotion we will ensure our messaging is being received by the desired audience.

Co-ordinating educational resources is another priority of the youth strategy. Ensuring that educators have easy access to science-based information pertaining to the agriculture industry will be essential to an improved perception of agriculture with youth. This will be achieved by working with industry partners to organize and distribute these resources in a co-ordinated effort across the province. The Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program can be accessed to help fund these kinds of initiates.

Giving youth the opportunity to explore a career in agriculture will better equip them in the future to make an informed decision about the opportunities within the industry. Along with working with industry organizations the Ministry has developed an opportunity catalogue to showcase the variety of career options in the industry. The six young people showcased in the catalogue are excelling in their given field that ranges from agricultural trades to research.

Page nine provides one example of a young person passionate about the industry. She is a strong agvocate for youth choosing a career in agriculture and encourages everyone to share their stories with our young people.

Katie MacMillan, Precision Agronomist

Katie MacMillan is a Precision Agronomist with Farmers Edge. Her company provides agronomy and Variable Rate Technology services to farmers, connecting technology with traditional agronomic practices. Katie understands the role Saskatchewan plays in a safe and nutritious food supply and takes pride in helping producers grow their crop the best, most sustainable way possible.

Katie has a bachelor of science in agribusiness from the University of Saskatchewan. She graduated in 2011 and since then has taken the certified crop science consultant course also through the University of Saskatchewan. While in school, Katie was involved with the Agriculture Student Association and the Canadian Agri-Marketing Association.

Katie is responsible for the Cypress territory in the Swift Current area, providing producers with services and advice on how to get maximum yields in the most sustainable way possible. She says the best part of her job is having the opportunity to build relationships with farmers in her area. Katie relies heavily on technology to complete her daily tasks, doing things like using satellite imagery to create production maps, writing fertility recommendations for fields, delivering variable rate prescriptions to farmers, scouting fields, collecting samples for tissue testing and soil sampling. During the fall and winter, soil sampling and planning for the upcoming crop season keeps her busy, as well as attending producer meetings and visiting farm shows across Western Canada.

Katie sees agriculture as one of the most exciting and innovative fields to be in. Growing up on a farm, she was exposed to agriculture her whole life and it was her first career choice, but said she sees immense opportunity in agriculture for people who do not come from a farming background as well.

KATIE'S WORDS OF WISDOM

Agriculture is a very broad industry and finding a career that suits you could be anywhere. Taking an agricultural based education may help in determining what you would like to be. The agriculture industry is filled with passionate and innovative individuals and becoming involved in agricultural organizations and committees will allow you to meet and network with a diverse group of talented people. Take the opportunity to build a network and learn as much as you can about the different opportunities in the industry.

To showcase the diverse career options in agriculture, the Ministry has created an opportunity catalogue, filled with stories like Katie's, to distribute to guidance counsellors and industry leaders. The catalogue features examples of careers in agriculture, highlighting the people behind the jobs and the unique paths they took to find their home in agriculture. To read these stories visit *www.agriculture.sk.ca/youth.*

Environmental stewardship: good for livestock

by Brian Campbell, PEng
Regional Engineer, Yorkton
Livestock Branch

Proper facility landscaping and runoff control can not only be economically beneficial as outlined in the last month's *Agriview* article, but can contribute to healthier animals, particularly those animals penned outdoors such as cattle and sheep. One of the most critical health factors for cattle and sheep is their ability to remain dry.

Achieving compliance under *The Agricultural Operations Act* for penned animals usually requires earthwork for runoff collection ditches, diversion berms and holding ponds. Landscaping of pens and access roads/alleys to achieve dry conditions for the animals can be most effectively achieved when designed in conjunction with runoff control works. Proper planning optimizes use of earthmoving equipment while on site and ensures compatible design with two separate runoff systems.

Dry pen conditions reduce tag, lower the risk of disease associated with wet conditions (i.e. pneumonia, foot rot), reduce stress associated with animal movement in mud and minimize energy expended with routine movement within the pen. Exceptionally wet pen floors can create a pen of very sick animals and even lead to death of an animal.

Well-drained pens enhance the ability of the owner to better manage the pen conditions for the well-being of the animals. Bedding can be added to dry pens when required by the animals; wet pens frequently make tractor access to the pen impossible at a time the animals need the bedding most.

Dry pens allow for easier checking of the animals and make it more convenient for timely treatment of those animals requiring attention.

Animals are frequently moved in and out of pens for sorting, vaccination and weighing. Dry conditions account for less stress to the livestock during a stress-inducing event.

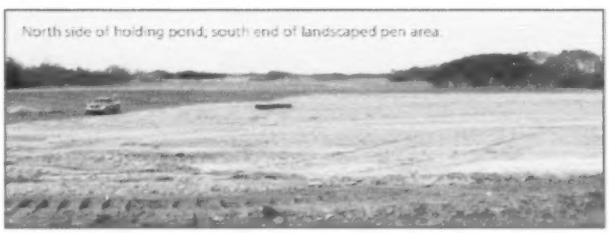
The handling facility should always be constructed at a very-well-drained, all-pen-accessible site such that animals are able to travel to and from the facility on dry ground. Handling facilities are used most effectively when the workers can access the aniamls without encountering hurdles like impassable pens.

And remember that conditions that reduce stress on the people handling the animals generally results in less stress to the animals as well.

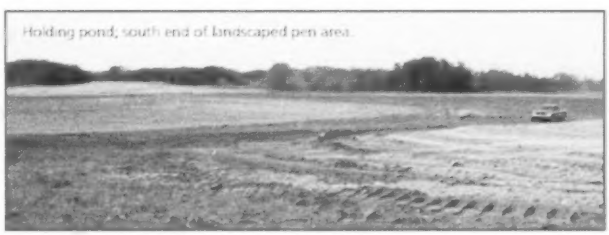
Dry pens are beneficial to all – the animals, the environment and the owner.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Ag Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



North side of holding pond, south end of landscaped pen area.



Holding pond, south end of landscaped pen area.

REDUCING THE STRESS OF WEANING ON CALVES

by Bob Springer, PAg
Regional Livestock Specialist, Swift Current
Regional Services Branch

As fall approaches, it will soon be time to wean calves and begin another production cycle in the cow-calf business. Weaning is the most stressful time in a calf's life, and can lead to sickness and death in weaned calves if not managed properly.

Two primary stressors affect calves at weaning: social change and environment change.

SOCIAL TRANSITION MANAGEMENT

Prior to weaning, calves rely on their mothers for food, social direction and security. At weaning, calves must adjust to a new social structure in a group of their peers. A study carried out in California from 2000-03, compared weight gain among calves that were weaned in several different ways: 1) fence-line separation from cows on pasture; 2) total separation from cows on pasture; 3) total separation from cows in a pen without preconditioning to hay; and 4) total separation from cows in a pen after being preconditioned to hay. Fence-line-weaned calves were allowed nose-to-nose contact with their mothers for seven days but were prevented from nursing by a separating fence. These calves gained 95 per cent more weight during the first two weeks after weaning compared to calves in the other treatments. For the 10 week period following weaning, the fence-line-weaned calves gained 30 per cent more weight than the abruptly weaned (treatment 2) calves.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION MANAGEMENT

Weaning also usually means a change in the physical surroundings of the calves, including a move from pasture into a pen. Calves have to adapt to being in closer contact with people and machinery, and to using feeders and water bowls. This adjustment, along with the dietary change from pasture grass and mother's milk to hay and grain, can be a major source of stress for weaned calves. Exposing calves to their weaning pen or pasture, new feeds and water bowls for a few weeks prior to weaning will minimize the stress of this adjustment when weaning takes place.

Painful procedures like castrating and dehorning should not be done at weaning time as it adds more unnecessary trauma.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact a Regional Livestock Specialist at a Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Put a nutritional label on your forage: feed test

by Alicia Sopatyk, BSA
Livestock and Farm Business Management Intern, Moose Jaw Regional Services Branch

Nutritional labels are common on commercial feed sources; why not put one on your forages?

The nutritional requirements of livestock vary according to age, stage of production and environmental conditions. If nutrient requirements are not met during gestation, fetal development and further offspring growth can be stunted. Reduced body condition of a pregnant cow due to inadequate nutrition can result in abortions. On the other hand, if a pregnant cow is continually fed in excess of her requirements, body condition can increase, resulting in dystocia or a reduction in milk yield caused by fat deposition in extreme cases.

Feed testing is the only way to determine the nutrient content of your feedstuff – which is simply putting a nutritional label on it. Since forages are the dominant portion of the livestock diet, a forage feed test is a good place to start. By testing the forage, the producer has the opportunity to reformulate the diet to meet requirements. If the forage is of excellent quality, the producer has an opportunity to save money by feeding less while still meeting nutritional requirements.

Since feed accounts for approximately 70 per cent of the cost of raising livestock, feed management and ration formulation need to be accurate. Without knowing the nutrient content of the forage, a producer could be feeding in excess, depleting feed stores and increasing feed costs due to waste; or feeding insufficient amounts reducing the production potential of the animals. The following table is a comparison of the feed costs associated with three different hay qualities and adjustment using a feed test.

	Forage Fed (lb./hd/d)	Forage Cost ($/lb./hd/d)	Total Cost ($/hd/d) ^	Savings Compared to Good Hay ($/hd/d)
Early cut, excellent hay	30*	$0.90	$40.90	$0.15
Late cut, good hay	35**	$1.05	$41.05	—
Late cut, poor hay	30*** (+6 lb. Supplement)	$0.90	$41.10	($0.05)

Assumptions:
1300 lb. mature cow consumes 35 lb. feed/day
Prices: Forage, $0.03/lb. Supplement, $0.003/lb, Feed Test, $40
*Requirements exceeded by excellent hay quality, able to feed less
**Requirements met
***Requirements not met by forage, feed less hay but include supplement
^Includes forage, supplement and feed test costs

These values are calculated on a per-head per-day basis. Based on a 100-head herd with 155 winter feeding days, savings are $2,325 for feeding excellent hay and -$744 for feeding poor hay and supplement, compared to the cost of feeding good hay. Remember, augmenting poor hay with supplement should not be counted as an economic loss, as the nutritional requirements are met and production is not hampered.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Regional Livestock Specialist at your nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

LABOUR SHORTAGES IN AGRICULTURE – WHAT'S HAPPENING

by Bob Wiens
Senior Livestock Policy Analyst
Livestock Branch

Saskatchewan continues to experience remarkable growth due to the strong global demand for Saskatchewan's natural resources and agricultural products. However, with dynamic growth comes challenges, one of which is the availability of labour for growing businesses.

The Government of Saskatchewan has made considerable efforts on labour-force planning and in its actions to enhance migration to the province through the New West Partnership Trade Agreement and the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program.

One of the tools used by employers to fill some of the labour gaps is the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). The program is designed to hire foreign workers on a temporary basis to fill immediate skills and labour shortages when Canadian citizens and permanent residents are not available to do the job.

On July 31, 2013, the Government of Canada reformed the TFWP to ensure that Canadians are given the first chance at available jobs. These changes include a $275 processing fee and an increased onus on employers to actively seek out Canadians before looking to hire temporary foreign workers. It is important to note that the current changes do not apply to on-farm primary agriculture or agricultural processing occupations, such as those under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP).

The TFWP falls under federal jurisdiction. However, the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the critical importance of this program to the Saskatchewan economy and, in particular, to certain economic sectors including agriculture.

Industry has also been active in addressing labour issues. They saw a need to address labour as a common priority, so they formed a labour task force. Participants include representatives from the animal, horticultural, ornamental, organic and pulse industries, as well as processors, agriculture and fishery sector councils, academia, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The mandate is to present, with one voice, the agriculture, agri-food and seafood sectors' specific concerns with the SAWP and the TFWP for discussion with the federal government.

Developing an educated and skilled workforce is a key priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. To that end, the Province will continue working together with Saskatchewan employers and stakeholders on strategies to address labour market needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Government of Canada website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca; or
- Visit the Government of Saskatchewan website at www.saskimmigrationcanada.ca.

Producers reminded to participate in BSE surveillance

by Dr. Wendy Wilkins, DVM, PhD
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian
Livestock Branch

Controls put in place to control Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada have been effective. The last case was found in Canada in February 2011 in a dairy cow from Alberta, but this does not mean producers should let down their guard—BSE surveillance is just as important today as it ever was.

A strong national BSE surveillance program is necessary to maintain international market access for Canadian beef. Cattle producers play a key role in this surveillance program since they are best placed to monitor the health of their herds and spot any animals that should be tested.

Producer participation in BSE surveillance has declined across Canada over recent years, and in Saskatchewan most of all. Saskatchewan Agriculture and the cattle industry have teamed up over the last year to get the message out to producers that their participation is essential. Producers have responded. The number of samples submitted for BSE testing in Saskatchewan has increased considerably: 76 per cent more samples were submitted this year, as compared to the same time last year. Thank you to our cattle producers for stepping up to the plate, and keep up the good work.

However, even with the recent increase in sample submissions, Saskatchewan is still not meeting its assigned testing quota of at least 7,400 animals each year. With more than 8,000 cattle producers in the province, requirements could be met if each producer tested one animal each year.

Cattle over 30 months of age that are dead, down, dying and diseased are eligible for testing. These are animals that cannot be shipped for auction or slaughter, and either die or are euthanized on-farm. Call your veterinarian or the nearest Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office if you have an animal that meets any of the testing criteria. You can also call the CFIA's BSE surveillance hotline at 1-877-727-5273.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/BSE.

BSE TESTING
Protect Your Investment
What is my role?
I think I have an eligible animal, what should I do?
Is there a cost to have an animal tested?
Why is testing important?
AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK

GROWING FORWARD 2 FUNDING TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

by Dr. Betty Althouse, DVM
Chief Veterinary Officer
Livestock Branch

Animal health surveillance is described by the OIE, the World Organization for Animal Health, as the systematic ongoing collection, collation and analysis of information related to animal health. It also includes timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken.

"Disease Surveillance and Management" is a specific area of focus within Saskatchewan's Growing Forward 2 (GF2) agreement. A collection of animal health surveillance activities has been developed under GF2 to help to ensure new, emerging and production-limiting diseases of livestock in Saskatchewan are identified, tracked and controlled.

One goal is to improve our animal health surveillance using laboratory data. Most veterinary samples in the province go to Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) Laboratories in Saskatoon. GF2 support will improve PDS's ability to report on and monitor submissions and results to detect trends such as changing disease patterns or new diseases. We will also work toward incorporating our provincial data into a national animal disease surveillance system, which is under development.

A number of disease surveillance initiatives are focused on beef cattle. A western Canadian beef cattle surveillance network, currently under development at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, will be enhanced with GF2 funding. Initial funds will be used to purchase equipment to improve speed and accuracy of sample processing. In future years, surveillance to determine levels of production-limiting diseases or parasite loads in representative Saskatchewan beef herds will be done.

Saskatchewan Agriculture will continue the existing Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD) projects that provide free laboratory testing to detect BVD in sick, dead or aborted calves and the detection of BVD in dairy herds through bulk milk tank sampling. In both cases, support for veterinarian consultation to develop herd-specific BVD control programs is included.

As well, a Johne's disease monitoring and prevention program will be introduced in beef herds. Watch for more specific information to come.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Wendy Wilkins, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, at 306-798-0253.

Grain bag storage and ag plastic recycling

by Daphne Cruise, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Moose Jaw
Regional Services Branch

The main use of grain bags in agriculture is for temporary storage of grain, particularly in years when extra storage is needed due to a large harvest. Grain moisture and temperature of crops going into the bag are very important. Oil content of oilseeds also plays a factor in safe storage.

Research from the University of Manitoba suggests that farmers should not store canola at 14 per cent moisture and over, as spoilage can start after only six weeks. Dry canola has been successfully stored for 10 months or longer. Temperature probes are good tools for monitoring grain bags.

Regardless of the type of grain being stored in a bag, there are a few points to keep in mind:

- Keep bags close to roads so that access is not restricted during winter.
- Empty bags before spring thaw to avoid potential spoilage when the bags are inaccessible due to soft fields.
- Monitor bags closely (at least once a week) at multiple spots along the bag until grain temperature drops below 5 C. Then, continue to monitor but less frequently.
- Seal up wild life damage as soon as possible.

Disposal of grain bags and other agricultural plastics has been a concern for many producers. Since the spring of 2011, the Provincial Council of A.D.D. Boards (PCAB) has been running an Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Project funded through the federal-provincial Growing Forward framework. This project will be funded to the end of March 2014. Eight grain bag collection locations have been set up throughout the province. Grain bag rollers are available to assist producers in rolling the grain bags into a compact form more suitable for shipping.

An agricultural plastics stewardship program for Saskatchewan is being developed. After meeting with industry stakeholders, CleanFARMS and the Saskatchewan Agriculture Stewardship Council have presented their recommendations, including draft regulations, to the Ministry of Environment. Additional information on this initiative can be found at: www.cleanfarms.ca/sask.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

WINTER WEIGHTS ALLOW SHIPPERS TO HAUL HEAVIER LOADS

by Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure

As a land-locked, export-based economy, trucking plays a major role in getting Saskatchewan-made goods to market. Winter weight season allows shippers to haul heavier loads during colder winter months, resulting in fewer trips and cost savings.

When the roadbed freezes, secondary weight highways are less prone to damage. Shippers using secondary weight highways benefit the most from winter weights because it allows them to carry heavier loads than they normally could.

The winter weight season can start as early as Nov. 16 and remain in effect until March 14, but may be cut off earlier due to weather and roadbed conditions.

You can find the latest weight restriction orders and related information online at www.highways.gov.sk.ca/restrictions/ or by calling the Highway Hotline as follows: Regina and area at 306-787-7623; Saskatoon and area at 306-933-8333; across Canada at 1-888-335-7623; and on the SaskTel Cellular Network at *ROAD.

Producers are also reminded to "Know Before You Go" and check the Highway Hotline for current road conditions throughout the winter months. Road condition information is available in many formats including interactive and mobile maps, Facebook, Twitter and more: www.highways.gov.sk.ca/roadconditions/. Remember to stay back and drive with caution behind snow plows as they leave a white out in their wake. Snow plows pull over every 10 km or so to allow vehicles to pass.

For technical and regulatory trucking information during the winter weight season, call the Transport Compliance Branch Inquiry Line at 1-866-933-5290 within Saskatchewan or 306-933-5290 outside of Saskatchewan. The line operates weekdays, except statuary holidays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

HIGHWAY HOTLINE

Seeking a control for root maggots in vegetable crops

The root maggot is the most common and economically damaging pest facing Saskatchewan's vegetable producers. Root maggots attack the roots of all cruciferous vegetables, causing reduced crop vigour, poor and uneven yields and occasionally death. The scars left by maggots render root vegetables unmarketable.

The problem appears to be getting worse in Saskatchewan due to the recent mild winters and wet summers. The problem is spreading throughout Saskatchewan, appearing wherever canola – another maggot host crop – is grown.

Insecticides to control maggots in vegetable crops have either been delisted (carbofuran) or are under regulatory review (chlorpyrifos). The currently registered pesticides also appear to be losing their effectiveness as the maggots develop resistance.

As a result of this "perfect storm", many Saskatchewan vegetable growers have been forced to give up producing cole crops despite good prices and strong market demand.

In 2009, a cross-Canada network of vegetable researchers was formed to look into root maggot control in vegetables. Dr. Doug Waterer of the University of Saskatchewan, with the financial assistance of Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund, looked at the effectiveness of cultural controls, new lower-risk pesticides and new resistant cultivars. The goal was to develop an integrated pest management approach that would control maggots while reducing growers' reliance on a few toxic pesticides.

CHEMICAL TRIALS

Over the 2009-12 growing seasons, six unregistered pesticides – clothianidin (Clutch), cyantraniliprole (Cyazypyr), bifenthrin (Capture), lamda-cyhalothrin (Matador), spinosad (Success 480) and spirotetramat (Movento) – were compared to chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) for their ability to control root maggots in rutabaga. The pesticides were applied three times during the growing season. A fourth treatment was applied if necessary.

The research showed that multiple applications of Lorsban as well as the new products, Clutch and Cyazypyr, provided good protection against maggot damage. All the products provided good control when maggot pressure was light or when the crop was harvested shortly after the last application, but Cyazypyr appeared to provide significantly better long-lasting protection even against heavy infestations. The effectiveness of Clutch and Cyazypyr means that they can be alternated with Lorsban as part of a pesticide rotation program to slow the development of pesticide resistance. The extended duration of Cyazypyr is potentially beneficial, but it raises questions about residue levels and pre-harvest intervals. A single application of clothianidin is being considered for registration as an alternative to multiple applications of Lorsban, but the research shows that multiple applications will be necessary to manage the heavy maggot pressure in Saskatchewan.

CULTURAL TRIALS

Non-chemical controls are also effective at controlling root maggots. One option is to physically restrict the pests' access to the crop with a cover or a mesh fence. Field covers are already extensively used in horticulture to protect high-value crops, and provide a warm, sheltered growing environment as well as protecting the crop from insects. Fine mesh fences protect against root maggots because the adult fly stays within a metre of the ground when seeking egg-laying sites. Dr. Waterer and his team compared a fine Agryl P-17 field cover and a more porous 20 mesh insect screen. A maggot fence was made by tacking a sheet of Agryl P-17 to a standard 1.3-metre plastic snow fence.

The tests showed that both the cover and the fence could provide a significant degree of protection against maggots; however, when pressure is very high, the barriers need to be augmented with chemicals. Field covers provide more protection than fences, but the fences are more practical. A fence can be deployed around the edges of the field, whereas the entire field needs to be covered by the cover. If the fence is set back from the field, tilling or spraying can be carried out unimpeded, but the covers have to be removed and then replaced whenever field work is required.

While the fences and covers protected against maggot damage, Lorsban provided the same amount of protection, and for a fraction of the price of the materials and labour required for fences and covers.

Companion cropping is another potential cultural control. Root maggot flies use sight and odour to find the perfect site to lay eggs. Wheat was planted between the rows of rutabaga to see if a non-host plant would "confuse" the flies and reduce their egg-laying. They also planted oilseed mustard, a maggot host crop, as a companion to see if the maggots would choose the stronger smelling mustard over the rutabaga.

In the tests, the companion crops grew more quickly than the rutabagas, but the tall plants shaded the rutabagas from the sun and had to be cut back in mid-June and again in mid-August. The companion wheat crop provided no protection from maggot damage, but the oilseed mustard clearly diverted the maggots away from the rutabaga crop. The mustard appeared to reduce the severity of damage and also increase the proportion of the rutabaga crop that made marketable grade. Establishing a companion crop took considerable effort and the plants needed to be managed (wider row spacing, thinner planting density, aggressive pruning) to limit their ability to compete with the rutabaga crop.

RESISTANT VARIETIES

Developing new maggot-resistant rutabaga varieties is the most sustainable method of managing the pest, and there are close relatives of the rutabaga that are resistant to root maggot damage. Researchers at the University of Guelph have crossed rutabaga with the maggot-resistant white mustard to produce a hybrid rutabaga with some maggot resistance. Dr. Waterer and his team tested five of these lines against the industry standard variety. None of the new lines consistently offered better protection against root damage than the standard, and, at the final harvest, the standard out-yielded all but one of the new lines.

While more work needs to be done, vegetable producers are several steps closer to a truly effective, affordable and environmentally sustainable solution to the root maggot problem, thanks to the work of Dr. Waterer and his team.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

In 2013, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture committed $9.9 million in new funding for 61 ADF research projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture research reports page at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADF/Search and enter the report number #20080031 into the search function.

Disclaimer: Use of these products for testing does not imply any form of endorsement by the University of Saskatchewan or Saskatchewan Agriculture. Neither Clutch nor Cyazypyr are presently registered for use in rutabaga.

File wildlife claims as soon as damage is noticed

Producers are reminded that there is compensation available for crop losses due to wildlife.

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) administers the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, which is available to all producers in the province. Producers can receive 100 per cent compensation without any cost to participate.

COMPENSATION FOR WILDLIFE DAMAGE TO CROPS

A late harvest sometimes means crops still in the field may attract migratory waterfowl. Where damage is caused by ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, antelope, elk, bears, moose, bison, wild boars, gophers, beavers, blackbirds or other non-domestic species to your crop or tame forage, 100 per cent compensation is available.

Initial payments will be made at 75 per cent of the September surveyed price, with final compensation to be paid based on a six-month average (September to February) in the spring of 2014. All seeded commercial crops, including those not currently insured by SCIC, are eligible. Only claims over $150 are eligible for compensation for crop losses.

Harvested crops cannot be properly assessed for damage; therefore, it is important to file your claim as soon as damage is noticed in the field. If a producer must harvest, it is recommended to leave the entire damaged portion plus a representative portion of the undamaged crop. SCIC monitors after-hour calls during the harvest season to ensure a timely inspection of claims.

WILDLIFE COMPENSATION AVAILABLE FOR GRAZED CROPS

Swath, bale and corn grazing are increasingly common practices. While these systems are intended to act as a fall and winter feed source for livestock, they are susceptible to wildlife consumption and damage as they are left in the field. Alternative feeding systems, such as swath, bale and corn grazing, are eligible for compensation if wildlife damage occurs.

To be eligible for compensation, the feeding system must be well managed and producers are required to take reasonable prevention measures. A well-managed feeding system generally involves appropriate fencing to control movement of livestock, an appropriate feed source, a management plan to limit waste and rotate livestock throughout the field and the ability for livestock to access water/snow and shelter/windbreaks.

To register a claim, contact SCIC as soon as you notice damage to the crop. SCIC will determine the actual yield in an undamaged area of the field. Subsequent visits may be required. Please note producers are required to monitor wildlife numbers and provide evidence to show the feed was intended for consumption by livestock.

OTHER CROP DAMAGE COMPENSATION

Compensation is available for excreta contamination to all seeded commercial crops. Producers may submit a receipt for the cleaning and handling of excreta-contaminated grain. This compensation is only provided if SCIC staff adjusting the initial claim identify excreta while crops are still in the field.

Compensation is also provided for wildlife damage to stacked hay, silage and bales, market gardens, tree nurseries, sod farms and honey and leaf cutter bees, including their structures.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your local Crop Insurance office;
- Call 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

CALCULATION OF BENEFITS STATEMENT CHANGES

As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the AgriStability process, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) has changed the way the calculation of benefits statement is produced.

At the request of producers, accountants and form-preparers, a one-page summary showing how SCIC determined the final calculation and the customer's new reference margin will be mailed when a file has been processed and completed. A complete version, which is typically 10 to 12 pages and includes the detailed summary of the participant's income, expense and supplemental information for both the program years and reference years, can still be accessed. It can be found on AgConnect, SCIC's online system for reviewing and submitting AgriStability information. The calculation of benefits statement can also be mailed to the producer or contact person, upon request.

SCIC believes this change will still provide the necessary information about the program benefit calculation while reducing paper.

If you have any questions about changes to the calculation of benefits, please contact the AgriStability Call Centre at 1-866-270-8450. SCIC also has program advisors available through the 21 customer service offices across the province to help review the calculation of benefits statement if there are questions. Their knowledge of Saskatchewan's farming and ranching sector, combined with a comprehensive understanding of the AgriStability Program, makes them a great resource for participants and accountants. To access your nearest program advisor, please contact a local Crop Insurance office.

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
October 1, 2013	Deadline to harvest potatoes (all varieties)	Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation	1-888-935-0000	www.saskcropinsurance.com
October 7 - 13, 2013	4th Annual Harvest Family Festival	Rosetown, SK	306-882-5314	www.rosetown.ca
October 9 - 15, 2013	Veterinary technician week in Saskatchewan			www.savt.ca
October 18, 2013	Nominations for board positions close for the newly formed Wheat and Barley Commissions			
October 31, 2013	Deadline to pay 2013 premiums without interest being charged	Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation	1-888-935-0000	www.saskcropinsurance.com

Fall 2013 ADOPT Projects approved

The Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program speeds the transfer of information about new practices and technologies to Saskatchewan producers. To achieve this, the program provides funding to producer groups to evaluate and demonstrate new agriculture practices and technologies at the local level. The Ministry of Agriculture is working to make sure that advancements in research move quickly from the lab to the producer to help our producers increase value and efficiency and help grow the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

Applications for funding are assessed on a project-by-project basis. Eligible recipients must be incorporated Saskatchewan-based producer groups. Individual producers are not eligible to receive funding under this program, but are encouraged to bring project ideas forward through a local producer group.

Twenty-one projects were recently approved for total funding of $191,240.

District #32 ADD Board

Investigating the advantages of biological *Sclerotinia* control in canola $17,700

Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation

Fall 2,4-D preceding canola, lentil and pea $7,500
Nitrogen fertilizer management options for winter wheat . $10,000
Winter wheat establishment and disease management $8,400

Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation

Winter wheat for flood irrigated projects. $12,600

Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation

Fall 2,4-D preceding canola, flax and pea $7,500
Nitrogen fertilizer management options for winter wheat . $10,000
Stacked round bale silage demonstration $1,740
Timing of bio-fungicide application for *Sclerotinia* control . . $7,400

Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association

Productive fall colony management/colony establishment $18,420

Saskatchewan Conservation Learning Centre Inc.

Fall 2,4-D preceding canola or pea or flax $7,500
Timing of bio-fungicide application for *Sclerotinia* control $7,400

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

Determining and demonstrating the logistical challenges, economics and success of performing synchronization and artificial insemination on a herd of 300 cows with calves at foot $10,000

South East Research Farm Inc. (SERF)

Timing of bio-fungicide application for *Sclerotinia* control . . $8,200

Western Applied Research Corporation

Controlling *sclerotinia* with Contans biofungicide $8,400
Fall 2,4-D preceding canola, lentil and pea $7,500
Nitrogen fertilizer management options for winter wheat . $10,000
Reclamation of saline soil using perennial forages $5,000
Vertical tillage: small plot demonstration $5,000
Winter wheat establishment and disease management $8,400

Western Beef Development Centre

Perennial forage species and varieties demonstration..... $21,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to request an application form

- Contact Jeff Braidek, Program Manager, ADOPT at 306-933-6016 or email evaluation.coordinator@gov.sk.ca.

Come visit us at Canadian Western Agribition

Saskatchewan Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation will have display booths in the Credit Union Eventplex at Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, November 11 to 15.

The Saskatchewan Agriculture booth will be set up as a virtual regional office staffed with farm business management, forage, crop and livestock specialists. Lands Branch staff will also be there to answer any questions about Crown land.

At the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance booth, staff will be available to answer questions about Crop Insurance, the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and the recent changes to AgriStability.

Hope to see you there!

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture